

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **April 23, 2002**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 6

CONSENT: **X**

REGULAR:

CLOSED SESSION:

ACTION: **X**

INFORMATION:

(Confidential)

ITEM TITLE: **Request for Greater Cooperation from the Commonwealth Transportation Board and Virginia Department of Transportation**

RECOMMENDATION: Approval of attached resolution requesting greater cooperation with the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

SUMMARY: City staff has been working with other local governments (primarily from the First Cities) for the past several months to forge a more cooperative relationship with the Secretary of Transportation, the CTB and VDOT. All of the participating local units of governments are being asked to approve the attached resolution to demonstrate this cooperation in advance of a planned April 30 meeting with the Secretary of Transportation and the VDOT Commissioner. The only specific request in the resolution is that urban construction funds be provided directly to the local units of government. At the present time all of these funds flow through VDOT to the cities. This can lead to delays in funding and additional administrative costs at VDOT. The intent of this change is to reduce delays in funding and help VDOT become more efficient. The reference to section 33.1-41.1 of the Code of Virginia refers to the present method used by the Commonwealth to distribute highway maintenance funds.

PRIOR ACTION(S): none

FISCAL IMPACT: If the change in the process of distributing urban construction funds was approved, it might improve the City's cash flow for funding and project payments. However, it would take additional staff time to manage most projects.

CONTACT(S): Bruce McNabb, Direc. Of Public Works, 847-1362, x 268

ATTACHMENT(S): Resolution

REVIEWED BY:

Resolution:

WHEREAS, the transportation systems in Virginia are critical to the continuing economic vitality and livability of the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, the recent economic downturn and an overly optimistic Six-Year Transportation Capital Improvement Plan have created a crisis for transportation finance in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, to avert the financial crisis the Governor has directed the Interim Commissioner of the Department of Transportation (VDOT) to develop a realistic, achievable and fiscally responsible plan for transportation spending in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Interim Commissioner's proposed plan includes potential reductions of up to 47% in state aid to urban transportation construction programs, which will severely impact localities; and

WHEREAS, certain Towns and all Cities have total responsibility for ownership, maintenance and operation of their roadways and thus are key stakeholders in the transportation systems of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, cities and towns are ultimately accountable to their citizens for the transportation systems within their jurisdictions, including roadways, structures, bike, mass transit, and pedestrian facilities; and

WHEREAS, many cities and towns have competent, professional staff successfully developing and implementing transportation projects within their jurisdictions.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lynchburg City Council:

- 1) Wishes to work in partnership with the Transportation Secretariat, VDOT Directorate and staff to identify and implement improvements in state and local transportation system management;
- 2) Supports the goal of streamlining burdensome processes, avoiding unnecessary costs, eliminating excessive time to construction, establishing measurable project management objectives, strengthening accountability and sharing responsibility;
- 3) Supports localities receiving their annual apportionment of urban construction funds, as designated in the *Code of Virginia* §33.1-23.1 and 33.1-44, directly from the Commonwealth Transportation Board, subject to provisions similar to those prescribed in §33.1-41.1 and subject to a reasonable system of financial controls;
- 4) Understands that localities must accept full responsibility for delivering quality transportation projects on-time and within budget; and
- 5) Supports increased flexibility in the application of standards for local transportation projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the City of Lynchburg, along with all Cities and Towns in the Commonwealth, shares the same goal as VDOT in providing and maintaining a transportation system that is safe, efficient and supportive of the needs of Virginia's citizens.

Adopted:

Certified: _____
Clerk of Council

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